

□ Recovery Funds to Bring Increased Broadband Access and Computer Training to Anthony

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Hobbs, NM – Friday, Congressman Harry Teague announced funding to expand broadband outreach in Anthony. The \$3.7 million grant, awarded to the Mission Development Economic Agency, in collaboration with the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders and a national network of Latino-serving economic development organizations, will fund a multi-state project that aims to expand computer training, broadband access and adult education to underserved and high unemployment Latino populations. The grant, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, was allocated through the Department of Commerce National Telecommunications & Information Administration.

“Internet and computer skills are essential when entering today’s competitive job market. And yet broadband access and technology education are still not available in many communities across southern New Mexico,” said Congressman Harry Teague. “The new computer center coming to Anthony will create opportunities for residents to expand their skills and their career options. By investing in our local infrastructure and education, we can create job opportunities that continue to grow our economy here at home.”

The grant will fund 12 new public computer centers (PCC) and expand five existing ones in 13 communities throughout the United States, including a new center in Anthony named the Tierra Del Sol Computer Center. The project partners in Anthony expect to serve at least 250 people per week in a service area of 7,789.

According to the Department of Commerce, the funding aims to improve computer access among adult Latino populations through a bilingual education program by providing literacy development for those with limited English skills and education on health and wellness. The project hopes to spur economic development by providing Latino entrepreneurs with the skills to establish and grow their own businesses and will also connect Latinos to organizations with microenterprise and business development expertise.